Her wild longing to try the stage will not, I think, bear the cold light of day when once she has tried it, and has realised what a lot of hard work and weary waiting and * hope deferred ' it involves. She doesn't, so far as I know, absolutely need, as N. does, to earn money for her own support. But T fancy she will find life rather a *pinch,* unless she can manage to do something in the way of earning money. So I don't like to advise her strongly *against* it, as I would with any one who had no such need.

" Also thank you, thank you with all my heart, for all your great kindness to N. She does write so brightly and gratefully about all you do for her and say to her."

" N." has since achieved great success on the music-halls and in pantomime. " D." is a leading lady !

This letter to ^my sister Floss is characteristic of his " Wonderland " style when writing to children :

" CH. CH., *January,* 1874.

*'MY DEAR FLORENCE,—

** Ever since that heartless piece of conduct of yours (I allude to the affair of the Moon and the blue silk gown) I have regarded you with a gloomy interest, rather than with any of the affection of former years—so that the above epithet ' dear ' must be taken as conventional only, or perhaps may be more fitly taken in the sense in which we -folk of a ' dear * bargain, meaning to imply how much it has cost us ; and who shall say how many sleepless nights it has cost me to endeavour to unravel (a most appropriate verb) that * blue silk gown ' ?

" Will you please explain to Tom about that photograph of the family group which I promised him ? Its history is an

instructive one, as illustrating my habits of care and deliberation. In 1867 the picture was promised him, and an entry made in my book. In 1869, or thereabouts, I mounted the picture on a large card, and packed it in brown paper. In 1870, or 1871, or thereabouts, I took it with me to Guildford, that it might be handy to take with me when I went up to Since then I h.ave tstfeen it two or three times to London,